

Richmond Paper Opposes Ban on Invited Negroes

RICHMOND, Va., April 16 (AP)—The Richmond Times-Dispatch suggested editorially today that "both white and colored" should be invited to any dinner for eminent Virginians now living outside the State.

In referring to the fact that three Virginia-born Negroes have received invitations to a State Chamber of Commerce dinner here May 17, the editorial said their inclusion "would be in the Virginia tradition of hospitality and interracial amity, and would evidence the desire of white Virginians to pay tribute to their colored fellow citizens who have left the State and made their mark."

"It appears that... two native Virginians intend to come, unless the Governor himself tells them not to," the editorial said.

"We have, then, the prospect of an extremely embarrassing situation here on the night of May 17, unless there is a quick backtrack on the part of the chamber, and unless these colored Virginians are told to come to the dinner to which they were invited."

"Wholly aside from this, it is entirely possible that one or more other Negroes, who may have been sent invitations inadvertently by the chamber will also appear, bearing their invitations and asking to be admitted."

The editorial said if any such Negroes were refused admission "Virginia and Virginia hospitality will get a black eye from which they may never recover." They are pointed out as distinguished natives of Virginia, the editorial said, and should be included in the dinner.

"In urging that these colored Virginians, and any others of

sufficient distinction now living in other States, be invited to the dinner next month, the Times-Dispatch is not lessening in the slightest its opposition in integration, particularly integration in the public schools.

"But the homecoming dinner raises an entirely different issue—not an issue of law at all, but one of propriety and decency."

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Segregation - Virginia

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Boardman _____
 Mr. Belmont _____
 Mr. Mohr _____
 Mr. Parsons _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Tamm _____
 Mr. Trotter _____
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 Miss Gandy _____

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(NEGRO)

RICHMOND, VA.--THE VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TODAY WITHDREW A FORMAL DINNER INVITATION ISSUED TO A CHICAGO NEGRO PROFESSOR WHO HAD PRAISED THE STATE FOR ITS "GREAT LIBERAL TRADITION" IN A LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

THE CHAMBER, SPONSOR OF A MAY 17 DINNER FOR "DISTINGUISHED VIRGINIANS," SAID IT MADE A "CLERICAL" ERROR IN SENDING THE INVITATION TO ST. CLAIRE DRAKE, A SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR AT CHICAGO'S ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY.

TATION TO ST. CLAIRE DRAKE, A SOCIOLOGY PROFESSOR AT CHICAGO'S ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY. PREVIOUSLY THE CHAMBER SAID IT HAD ERRED IN ISSUING INVITATION SO TWO NEGRO LEADERS WHO ARE NATIVES OF VIRGINIA.

THE CHAMBER SAID IT WAS RETURNING DRAKE'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE TO THE ALL-WHITE DINNER.

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Virginia Invitation To Be Declined By Negro Woman

RICHMOND, Va., April 13 (AP) — The second of two prominent Negroes inadvertently invited to a dinner here for distinguished Virginians today said she would not attend.

"I feel the State of Virginia is embarrassed by its attitude and I would not want to go and be embarrassed as an individual," said Mrs. Ella Phillips Stewart, a retired pharmacist, at her home in Toledo, Ohio.

The Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the Richmond dinner May 17 as part of the celebration of the 350th anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown, withdrew the invitations to the Negroes.

The names of Mrs. Stewart and Dr. Clilan B. Powell, who publishes the Negro Amsterdam News in Harlem, slipped through what the State chamber tried to make a careful screening of names. Dr. Powell is a native of Newport News, Va. Mrs. Stewart was born in Berryville.

Dr. Powell said earlier he would attend the dinner unless Gov. Thomas B. Stanley personally cancelled the invitation. Gov. Stanley has declined comment.

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